Cancer Services in Manitoba

A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Manitoba

Introduction

Every 3 hours, a Manitoban dies of cancer, the number one cause of premature deaths in the province. Over the next two decades, the number of new cancer cases in Manitoba is expected to increase by almost 60 per cent. As the number of new cancer cases increases, so will the number of people living with the disease. This will also increase the challenge of sustaining our publicly-funded health care system.

The projected increase of the cancer burden in Manitoba provides compelling evidence for the need to act now to reverse this trend and minimize the possible effects on our society. Implementing cancer initiatives will improve cancer prevention and early detection and enhance access to consistent and effective treatment and comprehensive care.

In November 2006, the federal government introduced the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer to implement the Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control, a five-year plan developed by more than 700 cancer survivors and experts. The goals of this strategy are to reduce the number of new cases of cancer among Canadians, enhance the quality of life of those living with cancer, and lessen the likelihood of Canadians dying from cancer.

Cancer Services in Manitoba: A Strategic Framework reflects the principles of the national strategy, and will guide Manitoba's planning and investment to prevent and control cancer on multiple fronts over the next five years. This made-in-Manitoba road map calls on all partners, including government, the health care sector, the university, the private sector, non-government organizations, communities and individuals, to work together to advance this comprehensive, systematic, partnership-based, collaborative strategy to prevent premature deaths and improve cancer outcomes.

Background: Cancer in Manitoba

Today, more than 40,000 Manitobans live with this disease. Predictions tell us that by 2025, more than 60,000 Manitobans will be living with cancer. The predicted effects of increased illness, direct treatment costs and lost productivity provide strong incentive for action.

In 2006, approximately 5,900 Manitobans were diagnosed with cancer, and about 2,600 people died from the disease. In recent years, the number of cancer cases has increased steadily, by about two per cent per year.

This increase is due to many factors, including increasing life expectancy and the aging of the "baby boomer" generation. This is because cancer is a disease that is more common in older individuals. Unhealthy lifestyles, socioeconomic inequalities and environmental exposures are also risk factors for cancer.

Today, more people are living with cancer, and survival is becoming more common. For some types of cancer (such as breast and prostate cancer), survival rates are steadily improving. Breast and prostate cancer patients have a five-year survival of more than 85 per cent, compared to 15 per cent for lung cancer patients and about five per cent for pancreatic cancer patients.

The proportion of people alive five years after a cancer diagnosis averages approximately 60 per cent, although these numbers vary depending on the type of cancer. Recent data suggest that about three per cent of the population alive today has been diagnosed with cancer within the past 15 years.

Manitoba's cancer experience is similar to other jurisdictions in Canada. Our incidence, mortality and survival rates are comparable to those seen for Canada as a whole, indicating that cancer challenges in this province will be similar to those that will be faced by other provinces.

The fight against cancer in Manitoba is carried out by a large group of partners, each group contributing a unique set of skills and resources. These partners include CancerCare Manitoba, all levels of government, Manitoba Health (including public health), Manitoba's regional health authorities, the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Medicine, hospitals, specialists, researchers and family physicians, community and social agencies, charitable organizations, the private sector, volunteers and individuals.

Provincially funded, CancerCare Manitoba is Manitoba's lead organization for cancer prevention, detection, care, research and education for the people of Manitoba. CancerCare Manitoba is known as a leader in innovation in its work with those affected by cancer, and is recognized on a national stage for its excellence. It also supports unique programs, including the Manitoba Institute of Cell Biology; integrated programs of haematology and medical oncology; paediatric oncology; and medical physics.

The work of the eleven regional health authorities across Manitoba is also key to the delivery of cancer prevention, detection, treatment and care services in Manitoba. As the providers of front-line health care services, the regional health authorities are also responsible for assessing and prioritizing the health care needs and goals of services in their regions, to ensure the continued provision of quality prevention and care to their residents. Manitoba Health and CancerCare Manitoba work together with each of the health authorities to develop standards and monitor compliance to ensure cancer services are provided in a coordinated cost-effective fashion.

This list of partners also includes the Canadian Cancer Society, which has provided information about cancer care and treatment to Canadians since the 1930s. Their work includes funding for medical research on all types of cancer, promoting healthy lifestyles, encouraging early detection and advocating for government to take action against this disease.

Another partner is the CancerCare Manitoba Foundation, which funds many kinds of cancer-related initiatives, including medical research as well as cancer-related capital and equipment purchases. The care and support offered by the foundation also makes a tremendous difference for people living with cancer and their families across the province.

Manitoba Health, CancerCare Manitoba and the volunteer sector also work with Aboriginal communities, the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada and other partners to reduce the incidence of diseases such as cancer and to improve the overall health of Aboriginal Manitobans. These partnerships bring people together to discuss health concerns and issues and to work together to develop innovative solutions to address the health care needs of Aboriginal people, such as the development of cancer-related information and materials in Aboriginal dialects.

Research underway in Manitoba, in Canada and around the world is making significant advances in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Thanks to the hard work of these health experts, new discoveries are being made everyday that will affect the future of cancer care in Manitoba. In the years ahead, research from Manitoba may change how cancer care is provided across the country and around the world.

Through the dedication and expertise of these health promoters and care providers, much has been achieved in Manitoba over the past two decades. These partners, as well as support groups, volunteers and the hundreds of dedicated health professionals, clinicians and researchers who share in this vital and important work deserve everyone's gratitude and appreciation for their hard work and commitment.

Increased investment in new technology, such as the purchase of new and additional linear accelerators, have significantly reduced median wait times for radiation therapy from a high of six weeks in 1999 to just one week in 2007. This reduction in wait times for radiation therapy takes the wait well below national benchmarks, a true accomplishment by dedicated and professional health care providers.

The province has also invested in cutting-edge research and treatment technology, including investing $6.7 million to purchase and install a gamma knife, which reduces the risks for complicated brain surgery procedures, including cancer. The province has also made investments in other equipment and capital projects to ensure quality cancer care, including:

- investing $7.7-million for new and replacement linear accelerators and treatment vault that provides CancerCare Manitoba with additional treatment capacity;
- investing in mammography units to provide enhanced access to breast screening programs;
- investing more than $7 million to purchase and install a positron-emission (PET) scanner for both diagnostic imaging and research;
- investing $13.3-million in new funding for cancer drugs and developing a new provincial oncology drug program;
- investing in the redevelopment of Victoria General Hospital, including the construction of a new oncology department;
- investing $3.8-million to expand outpatient chemotherapy and obstetric facilities at Bethesda Hospital in Steinbach;
- providing $3.4-million for a specialized treatment centre that provides treatment and support to Manitobans with prostate diseases, including cancer;
- constructing a $1.7-million community cancer program and providing other renovations at Pinawa Hospital to enhance emergency and acute patient care;
- investing more than $750,000 in construction on a community cancer program project to enhance access to chemotherapy at Deloraine Hospital; and
- developing a $1.4-million, 3,600-square-foot state-of-the-art community cancer unit at the Neepawa Health Centre.

Many chronic diseases that affect Manitobans including cancer, cardiovascular disease and diabetes, have common risk factors. Actions that could help prevent or delay the onset of these chronic diseases include good nutrition, increased physical activity and avoiding smoking or otherwise using tobacco. To this end, Manitoba has developed healthy public policies and made important investments in initiatives that affect cancer prevention and encourage healthy living, including:

- introducing legislation prohibiting smoking in enclosed public places and indoor workplaces;
- providing more than $580,000 annually to fund and support the provincial tobacco control strategy;
- investing more than $125,000 annually to support nutrition in schools;
- investing more than $750,000 in annual funding for the Healthy Schools initiative, which promotes healthy living options for students, their families, school staff and school communities;

- committing $3 million to the Chronic Disease Prevention Initiative, which offers funding and support to encourage communities to develop innovative programs and services that offer opportunities for healthy living; and
- providing more than $750,000 annually to support Manitoba ***in motion***, part of a provincial strategy to increase the physical activity of Manitobans for improved health.

The province recognizes that human resources and staffing are an integral part of cancer care in this province. Manitoba has some of the best cancer medical professionals in the country, and they do an excellent job of providing Manitobans with the prevention and care they need. Manitoba has provided increased support for human resources and staffing.

In 2004, the Canadian Cancer Society – Manitoba Division established the Knowledge Exchange Network (KEN) to help researchers, policy makers and practitioners connect and share information on a wide range of cancer-related topics and best practices. In November 2006, the society hosted the second New Connections Conference, bringing more than 400 people from across Manitoba together to share their experiences and take part in expert discussions on prevention, screening, treatment and care.

This strategic framework addresses the entire cancer continuum, from prevention through treatment and palliation. The province is committed to looking at how prevention and care can be best achieved for the entire population of Manitoba.

Our framework for the future also looks outward, to reflect Canada's National Cancer Strategy and the newly established Canadian Partnership Against Cancer. It shows our commitment to working with our partners both across the province and across the country on a number of cancer-related issues.

Our goals are to build on Manitoba successes, to continue our momentum and to encourage all community partners to work together to provide the best possible health outcomes for Manitobans. The goals for health programs across the province include:

- improving the health of Manitobans;
- decreasing health disparities between Manitobans;
- enhancing the balance between prevention and treatment/care; and
- improving the sustainability of the health system.

There is still much work to be done. As the number of cancer cases continues to grow, this framework is needed to make sure Manitoba is best positioned to fight cancer at all points, from prevention to survival or palliative care. Everyone has a role to play, and by working together, we can make a difference.

Areas For Action

Manitoba remains committed to using the best research and information available to develop strong policies and make evidence-based decisions about the future needs for cancer care in this province. Research into clinical, technological, medical and organizational advances will be incorporated into the development of new policies and programs to make sure Manitobans have access to the most appropriate prevention, detection, care and treatment options.

Cancer Services in Manitoba: A Strategic Framework identifies three key areas for action to improve not only the quality of care and treatment, but to also develop effective prevention and detection programs. The areas for action include:

- improving cancer prevention;
- detecting cancer earlier; and
- enhancing treatment options and improving care.

By focusing our efforts on these important areas in the years ahead, Manitoba will be able to make the most effective use of current resources while following a strategic plan for future investments.

We also know that the journey to provide quality cancer care for Manitobans will continue for many years to come. It is recognized that long-term planning efforts will be needed to effectively plan for the future health care needs of this province. Within this document, we have outlined our plans and key areas for action for the long-term future of cancer care in Manitoba.

Improving Cancer Prevention

Where We've Been

Today, many cancers are preventable. In 2001, an estimated 35 per cent of the seven million cancer deaths around the world were directly linked to human behaviours such as smoking, poor diet, lack of physical activity and sun exposure. Successes in cancer prevention could free up resources for the diagnosis and treatment of those cancers that have not been prevented.

We know that our ultimate prevention goal must be having Manitobans incorporate healthy choices and practices into their everyday lives. To this end, a number of initiatives have been developed to improve the conditions of everyday life and to provide all Manitobans, with a focus on young Manitobans, the tools and information they need to promote lifelong health.

Through legislation, Manitoba has been a national leader in reducing exposure to cigarette smoke in public and indoor workplaces across the province. Smoking prevention programs like the successful "Review & Rate" school-based smoking awareness initiative have also helped raise awareness of the effects of tobacco use among Manitoba youth. Although much remains to be done, there are encouraging signs that these efforts are making a difference. The Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey (CTUMS) indicates that smoking among Manitobans 15 years of age and older has decreased from 26 per cent in 2001 to 21 per cent in 2006.

Manitoba Health has developed a healthy living strategy that focuses on best practices resources on the seven pillars of healthy living, including active living, chronic disease prevention, healthy eating, healthy sexuality, injury prevention, mental health promotion and tobacco reduction. All but one of these pillars have cancer prevention as an expected outcome.

In August 2004, Manitoba launched the Healthy Kids, Healthy Futures (HKHF) Task Force, to consult with Manitobans about issues around healthy living and develop recommendations for priorities for healthy living policies and investments. Responses to task force recommendations have focused on the key areas of healthy eating and physical activity.

In 2005, the Manitoba government introduced the Chronic Disease Prevention Initiative to provide funding and support for communities to create innovative programs and services that offer opportunities for healthy living. Community-based chronic disease prevention projects that touch the lives of more than 322,000 Manitobans by encouraging physical activity, healthy eating and smoking cessation are already underway in dozens of communities around the province.

Physical activity is being promoted through Manitoba ***in motion***. Launched in October 2005, Manitoba ***in motion*** is a provincial strategy to help all Manitobans make physical activity part of their daily lives for health and enjoyment.

Manitoba was also the first Canadian jurisdiction to announce its intent to develop and implement a voluntary, province-wide vaccination program to prevent human papillomavirus (HPV) infections, a cause of cervical cancer. At this time, provincial public health officials are continuing to work with their counterparts across the country to develop the program.

Manitoba remains committed to working in partnership with community organizations, the regional health authorities, CancerCare Manitoba, national organizations, the federal government and other partners to develop healthy public policies to educate and encourage people to reduce their risk of cancer.

Where We're Going

Cancer Services in Manitoba: A Strategic Framework builds on our work to ensure cancer prevention initiatives continue to be a priority. The province will continue to work with all partners and stakeholders to improve the conditions of everyday life by focusing on priority areas, including:

- implementing new strategies to help schools target reductions in youth smoking and other risky life-styles;
- raising awareness of cancer risk behaviours and developing educational materials to provide information on healthy lifestyle choices for cancer prevention, especially for high-risk populations such as Aboriginal Manitobans, socio-economically disadvantaged Manitobans and new Canadians;
- implementing a voluntary vaccination program to prevent human papillomavirus (HPV) infections, a cause of cervical cancer;
- developing evidence-based provincial policy direction to support prevention through the promotion of active living, healthy eating and tobacco control while addressing underlying determinants and causes of high-risk behaviour; and
- developing and implementing formal research programs to provide measurable data to inform future planning;
- developing information and resources on environmental and occupational causes of cancers; and
- reducing exposures to environmental carcinogens; and addressing some specific cancer risks by initiatives such as:
  - enhancing prostate cancer risk awareness efforts.
  - developing a provincial sun safety program.

Detecting Cancer Earlier

Where We've Been

We know that screening programs and early diagnosis can be effective in improving the success rate of treatment, and many cancers have the best chance of cure when they are detected at an early stage. They can save years of life and improve quality of life, while reducing the need for and costs of treatment of advanced disease.

To improve early detection rates across the province, the province has partnered with CancerCare Manitoba to develop successful screening programs. One such program, the Manitoba Breast Screening Program, checks women aged 50 to 69 for early signs of breast cancer. Every year, between 150 and 180 breast cancer diagnoses are made through the Manitoba Breast Screening Program, not only catching the cancers earlier, but also helping women get the care they need more quickly.

Manitoba has invested more than $2.3 million in new equipment and human resources to improve breast screening rates. Screening locations are set up around the province, including sites in Winnipeg, Brandon, Thompson and Morden/Winkler. The Manitoba Breast Screening Program also operates mobile breast screening sites in over 90 locations, enabling women across the province to be screened.

Similarly, in 2000, the Manitoba Cervical Cancer Screening program was introduced to encourage women to have the "Pap" test, available from family doctors and other primary care providers across the province, to detect abnormal cells that can lead to cervical cancer. To ensure that women of many ethnic groups understand the benefits of screening, informational videos for both the breast and cervical cancer screening programs are available in eight languages.

Opened in 2004, the Manitoba Prostate Centre provides a wide range of services, ranging from early detection to treatment. Any Manitoban with suspected prostate disease from throughout the province can be referred by their family physician to the centre for diagnosis, care and treatment.

In Manitoba, an estimated 780 men and women are diagnosed with colorectal cancer every year. Half will die from the disease. However, colorectal cancer is one of the most curable cancers if it can be detected at an early stage of development. In 2007, Manitoba announced a new, province-wide, targeted screening program for colorectal cancer for Manitobans aged 50 to 74. The program will begin in two regions in 2007 and will expand throughout the province.

Where We're Going

It is a well-proven fact that regular screening can reduce cancer deaths. Yet, uneven use of screening services still exists. Manitoba will develop and implement a comprehensive cancer screening strategy to advance efforts to improve early detection, including:

- systematic reviews and evaluation of current and new screening techniques to support an evidence-based and cost-effective approach for implementation;
- providing increased public education about the importance of cancer screening;
- providing increased education for primary health care providers about the importance of cancer screening, as well as additional tools, resources and information about referral networks and other resources;
- increasing current program staffing to enhance access to cancer screening programs for all Manitobans at risk; and
- implementing and expanding the colorectal cancer screening program throughout the province.

Enhancing Treatment and Improving Care

Where We've Been

All patients should have effective and efficient management of cancer in a supportive, compassionate environment starting with the early suspicion of cancer through diagnosis and treatment, as well as for palliative and end-of-life care. In Manitoba, many health care professionals work together to provide patients across the province with skilled care and treatment in the battle against cancer.

Manitoba has been a leader in the implementation of best practices for physician education, including the adoption of the Disease Site Group model for treating cancer. In this model, multidisciplinary groups of experts work together to develop evidence-based best practices for particular types of cancer. This patient-focused approach to treatment makes sure that patients receive optimal and consistent care, whether that care is received within a specialized cancer clinic, in a family physician's office or in a community setting.

Although Manitoba has made many significant investments in resources to enhance cancer treatment, there is still more work to be done. Recent surveys by CancerCare Manitoba show there are still significant differences in how referrals to specialists and multidisciplinary teams occur according to geography and cancer type. A number of programs have been put in place to address this, including teleoncology, a network linking primary care providers and cancer specialists (UPCON), and a centralized referral and intake for cancer patients.

Cancer care providers across the province have access to CancerCare Manitoba's teleoncology services, where two-way video-conferencing is used to link health care professionals to patients and other health care providers at a distance. Health care professionals are able to use the service to meet with patients and families in rural and northern areas of the province to provide both consultative and educational services. This innovative use of technology allows patients to remain closer to their families and friends while receiving the best possible health care from cancer experts, and eliminates the need and expense for long trips to Winnipeg for treatment.

Another innovative program, the Uniting Primary Care and Oncology Network (UPCON), was established to help family physicians link primary care providers with the specialized cancer care system. Family physicians and other primary care providers are not only able to link with cancer care specialists to discuss their patients, but can also access the patient's electronic medical charts, improving the coordination of care between different providers and fostering continuity of care for patients.

The province has also invested in the creation and implementation of a centralized referral and intake initiative, to provide patients with a single point-of-entry to the

cancer care referral system. Simplified access for referring doctors is currently in place for three disease sites, and will be expanded to all disease site groups. The recent addition of a wait list coordinator will help ensure timely and appropriate access to CancerCare Manitoba services, and provide accurate wait time information to the patients, the public, staff and other stakeholders.

The province has also made significant investments in equipment to enhance timely and state of the art treatment, including investing in new and replacement linear accelerators to provide radiation therapy treatments, and a volumetric CT simulator to provide better images for planning treatments.

Preferably, patients should be able to receive treatment close to home. Manitoba has partnered with CancerCare Manitoba and the regional health authorities to develop the infrastructure needed for effective cancer care and treatment around the province, not just in Winnipeg.

The Community Cancer Program Network, one of CancerCare Manitoba's most significant and longstanding success stories, is a model for promoting partnerships and best practices. Implemented in 1978, the project's aim was to minimize the disruption cancer imposes on patient's lives by providing cancer care closer to home.

There are now 15 Community Cancer Programs (CCP) located throughout the province. Community cancer program communities include Brandon, Dauphin, Flin Flon, Gimli, Hamiota, Boundary Trails, Neepawa, Pinawa, Portage, Russell, Selkirk, Steinbach, Swan River, The Pas and Thompson. In addition, work on a new, four-station community cancer program at Deloraine Hospital that will provide area residents with access to chemotherapy closer to home is currently underway.

Understanding the benefit of this approach to patients, and recognizing the value of the resulting increase in cancer treatment capacity, the province has also committed to developing a regional cancer centre in western Manitoba. A new project is underway in Brandon to design a facility to house a new linear accelerator and supporting cancer treatment services in Brandon, so people in western Manitoba will be able to access radiation therapy treatments closer to home.

Receptive to new and improved treatment models, the province launched the Palliative Care Drug Access Program in November 2002, which provides eligible prescription drugs at no charge to palliative care patients. Every year, the program dispenses more than $2 million in drug coverage to people who wish to spend their final days at home or in another residence, rather than in a hospital or other health care facility.

Building on this, in 2006 Manitoba announced a provincial program for cancer drugs that centralized the management of oncology drug programs across the province and increased funding for such drugs. The Provincial Oncology Drug Program represents

a quantum leap in the provision of cancer drugs: it improves resource co-ordination, quality and patient safety while enhancing opportunities for cost savings and monitoring. The data collected within the program allows cost projections to ensure appropriate planning and use of expensive cancer medications to better manage the rising costs of oncology drugs.

Manitoba has also been a leading force in the development of a new process to build more consistent cancer care across the country. Introduced in March 2007, the Joint Oncology Drug Review is a partnership of provinces and territories to ensure a more timely, effective and efficient review and evaluation of cancer drugs.

Although access treatments and drugs is obviously key to cancer care, helpful, supportive and compassionate services from the time of diagnosis through treatment and beyond are also crucial. As such, holistic care is a fundamental principle of patient and family support services.

CancerCare Manitoba offers a number of patient and family care support services. The facility operates the Patient and Family Information and Resource Centre, where people can seek and find information about cancer treatment and care in person or by phone. Home care services are also available for people undergoing care or treatment who need help with the activities of daily living.

Many support groups and programs and peer support programs are available for people with cancer and their families both within and outside Winnipeg. Through CancerCare Manitoba, the Canadian Cancer Society - Manitoba Division and other organizations, supports are available for people living with cancer, their caregivers and their families. These programs include peer support, practical support and financial support programs.

In Manitoba, compassionate palliative care services are also available. Manitoba's Palliative Care Program is nationally recognised for alleviating pain and enabling patients to die with dignity in a place of their choice. The Canadian Virtual Hospice's interactive website offers resources to Canadians dealing with life-threatening illness and loss who need more information and support than they are able to find in their communities. Approximately 25 per cent of those who access the website are Manitobans.

Here in Manitoba, we are proud of the compassionate care and support that Manitoba's health care providers and volunteers give to cancer patients and their families through dedication and hard work.

Where We're Going

Over the next five years, the province will continue its efforts to enhance treatment options and improve outcomes by focusing on priority areas including:

- continuing the development of multidisciplinary models of care for all major cancers, including treatment information that can be used by both oncologists and other practitioners. This includes:
  - establishing a treatment monitoring system to assess compliance with clinical practice standards;
  - developing educational tools and networking opportunities; and
  - expanding UPCON to include primary care providers throughout the province and enhancing links between this group, the surgical network and tertiary care providers.
- continuing the development, implementation and monitoring of guidelines and standards of clinical prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of all patients;
- developing a Western Manitoba Regional Cancer Program in Brandon that includes radiation therapy;
- investing in leading-edge radiosurgery technology to provide less invasive surgical treatment options for patients with complex cancer treatment needs;
- targeting investments to create specialized centres of excellence;
- introducing new programs that focus on specific areas of care, including head and neck cancer and testicular cancer;
- using technology to improve cancer care services by:
  - enhancing health care provider access to education and expertise; and
  - developing the capacity to use real time data about service availability and demand to create a flexible and responsive system to best use available resources.
- developing and meeting provincial benchmarks for treatment of potentially curable cancers;
- enhancing patient care by:
  - hiring patient navigators to help patients and families deal with the challenges associated with navigating a complex, multi-provider system in a culturally sensitive manner;
  - increasing patient access to information about supportive and palliative care across Manitoba;
  - enhancing palliative care throughout the province;
  - increasing and enhancing access to psychosocial expertise for patients and families; and
  - increasing links with and access to cancer support programs such as palliative care services, spiritual care programs and survivor groups.

- establishing a province-wide network that includes both surgical oncologists and cancer-focused surgeons who provide general surgeons with more disease specific specialist support;
- adapting community cancer programs to act as regional hubs of comprehensive cancer programs for each community;
- enhancing information systems to make sure that care providers, no matter where they work, have the patient information they need to make the best decisions about care in a timely manner;
- expanding primary care capacity and expertise to manage cancer by linking primary care health clinics to CancerCare Manitoba and making tools available to help all physicians with follow up, support and education;
- establishing patient advisory groups linked to regional cancer care programs to provide input and advice for system planning and transformation;
- investing in education and training for additional health care professionals from physicians to technologists; and
- supporting research that build on the strengths of our nationally renowned programs to:
  - enhance care, develop the province's research potential, and improve recruitment and retention of health professionals;
  - provide greater access and use of clinical trials; and
  - develop partnerships to prepare for new technology for treatments and therapies in areas such as pathology, diagnostics and genetics.

Planning for the Future

Manitoba Health, the regional health authorities and CancerCare Manitoba will continue to evaluate human resources needs and infrastructure requirements that are necessary to implement the initiatives outlined in this cancer guide. This is the roadmap for the future that will help the province expand and improve cancer treatment in the years to come.

Manitoba recognizes that a strong Aboriginal component for cancer programs is needed in the years ahead. The province will continue to work with partners, both in Manitoba and at the national level, to ensure that Aboriginal health issues remain in the forefront of any discussions on the future of cancer care, including programs for cancer prevention and screening programs, and improvements to treatment and care.

Conclusion

Today, more than 40,000 Manitobans are living with cancer. By 2025, more than 60,000 Manitobans will be living with cancer. To meet this projected increase in demand in the years to come, we need to act now to change the course of cancer and cancer care in this province.

Cancer Services in Manitoba: A Strategic Framework builds on existing strengths and partnerships to reduce new cancer cases and increase our system capacity through efficiencies and evidence-based use of resources. It provides solid foundation to reduce the effects of cancer in Manitoba in the years ahead.

This road map for the future calls on all partners to work together across the province to support and sustain targeted investments in programs and interventions along the entire cancer continuum, from prevention to survivorship or palliation

We cannot prevent all deaths from cancer. Improved cancer prevention, earlier detection, and access to consistent and effective treatment and care will mean a lower death rate, improved prospects for survival, improved quality of life for those affected by cancer, and more efficient use of our health care system.

Significant changes to how we work and how we share resources will be needed to make this plan a success.

But here in Manitoba, we have strong partnerships, committed health care professionals and a vision for the future

Working together, we can make a difference.